

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 15 and 17 are independent. In light of the Remarks included herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Posner* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208435) in view of *Elliott* (USP6,446,053). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner admits that *Posner* fails to explicitly disclose searching a resource database storing resource data relating to available resources using a search template to identify and select the available resources suitable for completing the project defined by the statement of work. The Examiner relies on the teachings of *Elliott* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Posner* citing to col. 10, lines 47-56. The Examiner asserts that the contractor database is sufficient to teach the resource database as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of these references.

The disclosure of *Posner* is directed to an on-line system and method for processing RFPs and for assembling a proposal in response to the RFPs. Incorporated in the *Posner* system, a team builder module 112 is configured to receive and process proposal data from one or more of the vendor modules.

The disclosure of *Elliott* is directed to a computer-implemented method and system for producing a proposal for a construction project. After a proposal is complete by the user (customer), the user may select a general contractor or individual subcontractors to submit the

bid The *Elliott* system includes a contractor database that may be searched for contractors in the designated geographic area. By sending the proposal to several contractors, as taught by *Elliott*, the user can compare prices for different contractors for his project (col. 10, lines 52-56).

In contrast, the invention of claim 1 is directed to a method implemented via a computerized system for coordinating business information flow to permit a provider of goods or services to prepare a project proposal including a price quote for a project requested by a customer, said system including a central server programmed to execute said method, said method comprising establishing a communications channel between the central server and at least one client computer; creating a statement of work comprising project data corresponding to project details, terms, requirements, and comments using a project information template; transmitting the statement of work over the communications channel to the central server from one of the at least one client computer to initiate preparation of the project proposal; searching a resource database storing resource data relating to available resources using a search template to identify and select the available resources suitable for completing the project defined by the statement of work; processing data relating to selected resources and project data of the statement of work to generate the price quote and prepare the project proposal; and preparing an evaluation summary report of the project proposal, detailing the project data and selected resource data of selected available resources for review and approval by the provider of goods or services.

The Examiner appears to seek to modify *Posner* with the contractor database of *Elliott*. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in *Elliott* that is directed to a resource database storing resource data relating to available resources to identify and select resources suitable for completing the project where the data related to the selected resources are processed to generate the price quote and prepare the project proposal. The contractor database of *Elliott* is merely searched for contractors in the designated geographic area. The data stored in the contractor database cannot reasonably teach or suggest the resource database as claimed. The contractor name and location cannot be considered resource data that relates to available resources as it is not processed to generate the price quote and prepare the project proposal, as required by the

claim. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that neither of the references, either alone or in combination, teach nor suggest searching a resource database storing resource data relating to available resources to identify and select the available resources suitable for completing the project defined by the statement of work; and processing data relating to selected resources and project data of the statement of work to generate the price quote and prepare the project proposal. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-14 and 16 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that newly added claims 15 and 17 include elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and thus these claims, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

### **Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

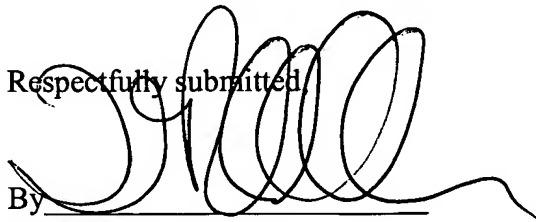
Application No. 10/027,988  
Amendment dated August 18, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2006

Docket No.:H0001983-5641  
(BSKB: 5286-0101PUS1)

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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